

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 11-19, 22, 34-57, 70-93, 106, 107, 109-113, 115-117, and 124-135 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11, 12, 22, 106, and 112 are amended and Claims 9, 10, 20, 21, 108, and 114 are canceled without prejudice by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeda (U.S. Patent No. 5,937,750) in view of Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,117,257, herein “Takahashi”); Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeda in view of Takahashi and Kanno (U.S. Patent No. 6,718,872); Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeda in view of Takahashi, Kanno and Tomono et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,400,065, herein “Tomono”); Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeda, Takahashi, and Ozaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,207,157, herein “Ozaki”); Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeda in view of Takahashi and Ito (Japanese Patent JP 410166705); Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeda in view of Takahashi, Ito, and Tanaka (Japanese Patent No. JP 2001-239733); Claims 12-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Asai et al. (Japanese Patent No. JP 2002-172839, herein “Asai”) in view of Takeda and Takahashi; Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Asai in view of Takeda, Takahashi, and Kanno; Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Asai in view of Takeda, Takahashi, Kanno, and Tomono; Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Asai in view of Takeda, Takahashi and Ozaki; Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Asai in view of Takeda, Takahashi, Ozaki, and Tanaka; Claims 106, 107, and 109 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeda in view of Hiroshi et al. (Japanese Patent JP 05-70010, herein “Hiroshi”); Claims 110 and 111 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeda in view of Hiroshi and Kanno; Claims 112 and 113 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Asai in view of Hiroshi; Claim 115 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Asai in view of Hiroshi and Takeda; Claims 116 and 117 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeda in view of Hiroshi and Kanno; Claims 124-135, 34-57, and 70-93 were allowed; and Claims 10, 21, 108, and 114 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of Claim 10, independent Claim 12 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of Claim 21, independent Claims 106 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of Claim 108, and independent Claim 112 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of Claim 114. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is believed that all outstanding rejections are overcome and the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

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